

In the Claims

Please amend claims 8, 10 and 24; and cancel claims 31-33 and 36-37 as follows:

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A method of determining a corrected concentration of an analyte contained in a specimen comprising a blood substitute interferent and a non-blood substitute interferent, said method comprising the steps of:
- i) providing a first calibration algorithm for said blood substitute interferent, a second calibration algorithm for a non-blood substitute interferent, a first linear equation defining a relationship between a measured concentration of said analyte and a concentration of said blood substitute interferent, and a second linear equation defining a relationship between a measured concentration of said analyte and a concentration of said non-blood substitute interferent, said first and second calibration algorithms developed using a calibration set comprising variable amounts of said blood substitute interferent and said non-blood substitute interferent;
 - ii) measuring an absorbance or reflectance of radiation of said specimen, wherein said measuring is performed in the absence of any reaction step that generates a chromophore within said specimen;
 - iii) using said first and second calibration algorithms and said absorbance or reflectance measured in step (ii) to calculate a concentration of said blood substitute interferent and a concentration of said non-blood substitute interferent in said specimen;

- iv) determining an initial concentration of said analyte in said specimen with an analyzer, and
- v) using said first and second linear equations from step (i), said concentrations from step (iii), and said initial concentration from step (iv), to determine said corrected concentration of said analyte.

Claim 9 (Cancelled).

- 10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said analyte is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group ~~consisting~~ consisting of Na, K, Cl, HCO₃, Ca, Mg, creatinine, urea, total protein, gamma glutamyl transferase (GGT), aspartate amino transferase (AST), lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), creatine kinase (CK), alkaline phosphatase (ALP) and total bilirubin (Tbili).
- 11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein reflectance is used in step (ii).
- 12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the radiation is in the range of 474-910 nm.

Claims 13-22 (Cancelled).

- 23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein absorbance is used in step (ii).
- 24. (Currently Amended) A method of determining the presence of true hemolysis in a specimen containing a blood substitute interferent, comprising the steps of:

- i) measuring an absorbance of radiation of said specimen, wherein said measuring is performed in the absence of any reaction step that generates a chromophore within said specimen, and
 - ii) incorporating said absorbance measured in step (i) into a calibration algorithm developed using a calibration set comprising variable amounts of hemoglobin and a blood substitute interferent to determine a value of hemoglobin,
- wherein detection of any amount of hemoglobin is an indicator of true hemolysis.

Claims 25-26 (Cancelled).

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said non-blood substitute interferent is selected from the group consisting of haemoglobin (Hb), bilirubin (BR), biliverdin (BV), turbidity and a mixture thereof.

Claim 28 (Cancelled).

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said specimen further comprises one, or more than one, non-blood substitute interferent.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said one or more than one non-blood substitute interferent is selected from the group consisting of intralipid (IL), bilirubin (BR), biliverdin (BV), turbidity and a mixture thereof.

Claims 31-33 (Cancelled).

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said blood substitute interferent is cross-linked hemoglobin.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said blood substitute interferent is cross-linked hemoglobin.

Claims 36-37 (Cancelled).